

BLESSIG, BRAUN & CO

Richard Husband

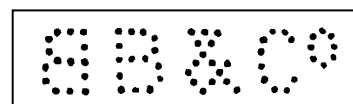
The firm of Blessig, Braun & Co was founded in Liverpool in 1846 by P. J. Blessig and F. C. Braun and traded as Commission Merchants. P. J. Blessig was born in 1821 and came to Liverpool in 1845 retaining his Hereditary Honorary Russian Citizenship until 1862 when he took British Citizenship. He died shortly after retiring in 1904. F. C. Braun died in 1873.



Registered cover sent from Liverpool to Germany on 18 January 1904 by Blessig, Braun & Co of 3-5 Rumford Street, Liverpool.

Such was the success of the business, that both the original partners had built large houses for themselves and their families at West Derby on the outskirts of Liverpool. P. J. Blessig's house, built on a 15 acre field, was called "Peterhof" after the Tsar's Summer Palace on the Gulf of Finland and was pulled down in 1925. A modern housing estate now covers the site. F. C. Braun's house has survived and is now a High School for girls.

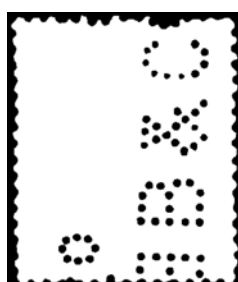
After F. C. Braun's death, P. J. Blessig took F. C. A. Minoprio, an employee, into partnership which lasted until 1886. Then in 1886, he took his son-in-law Theodore Heyder into partnership. After P. J. Blessig's retirement in 1904, Theodore Heyder became head of the firm and retired in 1923. In 1915, Theodore Heyder assumed his mother's family name of St George and his son, George St George, who had been made a partner in 1901, wound up the business at the end of 1924.



Full strike of die.

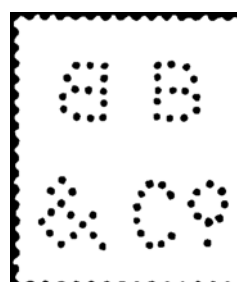
The die used to perforate the stamps on this cover was (B0640.01) and is known to have been used between 1870 and 1920. It was a single headed die fitted to Sloper machine numbered 2741 completed on 1 April 1870. The die itself was longer than a normal definitive sized stamp so that a complete horizontal strike perforated two out of the strip of three stamps of the 2½d value. The strike on the 1½d value has also been applied horizontally but the undue shift to the right resulted in the '& Co' being missed off the stamp completely. The perforating die is also known used vertically, as indicated in the illustration shown below.

1870 - 1920



B0640.01

1870 - 1900



B0650.01

The other perfin die known used by Blessig, Braun & Co. was (B0650.01) which also had the first 'B' of the design reversed, and is known to have been used between 1870 and 1900.

Stamps perforated by either die have only been reported with Liverpool postmarks.